

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324

BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING EARTH DAY AWARDS HONOR ENVIRONMENTAL WORK

Two mining companies and the Utah State Office Bureau of Land Management have demonstrated a willingness to go beyond what is required by regulation to protect the environment and will be recognized for their efforts on April 30, 2003. The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining will present 2003 Earth Day Awards to Co-Op Mining Co., Huntington, Utah; Northern Stone Supply, Oakley, Idaho; and Utah State Office Bureau of Land Management and Teresa Snyder. The awards will be presented at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

“Earth Day Awards were created as a vehicle to recognize operators and others who go the extra mile in protecting the environment while providing us with essential natural resources,” explained Board Chairman Allan Mashburn. “Each of these recipients has taken action on their own initiative to improve our environment and they deserve this recognition.”

While expanding mining operations at Wild Horse Ridge, Co-Op Mining Company recognized the importance of a unique habitat that would have been severely impacted by installation of a traditional coal conveyer system. Co-Op opted instead for a more expensive method of suspending the conveyer and constructing a road along a less favorable route to preserve a spring and associated wetland and riparian habitat.

The Utah State Office Bureau of Land Management and Teresa Snyder are being recognized for their vision and drive in coordinating federal and state agencies to undertake a complex cleanup project in the Cottonwood Wash near Blanding. Cottonwood Wash is a former uranium-mining district and watershed was being impacted. Snyder established a technical committee with representatives from all involved agencies, guided the project work and kept it on schedule. The resulting reclamation work in the watershed has closed 122 mine portals and 24 shafts, reclaimed nearly five miles of exploration road, and revegetated 124 acres of land.

Northern Stone Supply acquired a stone quarry in Box Elder County in 1992. During previous work at the site waste rock had been pushed into the drainage of Rock Creek and had accumulated to a point that the creek no longer flowed on the surface. Northern Stone Supply removed the waste rock and successfully restored the stream. Today, a small population of native Bonneville Cutthroat Trout has re-established themselves in the project area.

The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining has presented Earth Day Awards to operators since 1991. The essential requirement for receiving an award is that a company must voluntarily perform work that is not required by law. Since that time 40 mining and oil and gas companies have been singled out for their environmental awareness.

The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining will begin their formal agenda at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Docket No. 2003-002, Cause No. DAR 25788 – In the Matter of the Division's Request to Commence Formal Rulemaking to Amend Utah Administrative Code R649-3-1 regarding Bonding in the Oil and Gas Conservation Program.

The Board will announce its decision with respect to rulemaking; no public comment will be taken.

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